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SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 15



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WHAT IS HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH?

Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15, the date of independence from Spain for five Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. (Additionally, Mexico declared its independence on September 16, and Chile on September 18.) The annual event, which is celebrated until October 15, was first observed as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968 and was expanded to Hispanic Heritage Month in 1988.

WHO ARE HISPANIC-AMERICANS?

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Hispanic refers to Spanish-speaking people in the United States of any race. More than 45 million Hispanics or Latinos live in the United States, making them the largest ethnic or racial minority in the country. By 2050, the Hispanic population is estimated to increase to 102.6 million, or nearly a quarter of the nation's total population.

MORE INFLUENTIAL HISPANICS

In 2007, Hispanic Magazine released its list of the **100 Most Influential Hispanics**. Below are some of the movers and shakers who made the list.

Priscilla Almodovar, CEO, New York State Housing Finance Agency
Carlos Carera, Senior Vice President of Operations, North America, Hyatt Hotels Corp.

Lorraine Cortez-Vasquez, New York Secretary of State
Christina Davis, Senior Vice President, Drama Development, CBS Entertainment

America Ferrera, Actress (Star of ABC's *Ugly Betty*)

Liliana Gonzalez, Chief Design Engineer, ConEdison

Dr. Richard Izquierdo, Founder, Urban Health Plan

Omar Minaya, General Manager, New York Mets

Leo S. Morales, Co-director, UCLA Resource Center for Minority Aging Research

Armando Nunez, Jr., President, CBS Paramount International Television

Marie D. Quintero-Johnson, VP & Director of Mergers and Acquisitions, The Coca-Cola Company

Eddie Alberto Perez, Mayor, Hartford, Connecticut

Felix Sabates, Owner, Minority Partner, Chip Ganassi Racing (NASCAR)

Raul Vasquez, President & CEO, Walmart.com

Judith Taylor, Executive VP of Production, Warner Bros. TV

NOTABLE HISPANIC-



In 1968, **Walter Alvarez** became the first Hispanic-American ever to win a Nobel Prize in Physics. The San Francisco native was honored for his work on subatomic particles. Alvarez and his son, **Walter Alvarez Jr.**, also offered the now-accepted theory that a meteor was to blame for the mass extinction of dinosaurs.



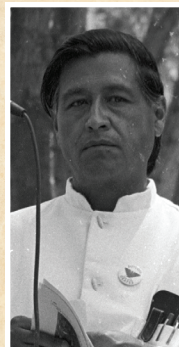
Lauro Cavazos served both Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush as Secretary of Education and was the first Hispanic-American to attain a cabinet post.



Henry Cejudo, the son of undocumented Mexican immigrants, took gold in the 55 kg (121 lbs.) freestyle wrestling event at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China. Cejudo's victory made the 21-year-old the youngest American to win a wrestling gold medal.



Costa Rican-born **Franklin Chang-Diaz** became the first Hispanic-American in space when he went aboard the space shuttle Columbia in 1986. Five years later, **Ellen Ochoa** became the first female Hispanic-American astronaut when she flew on Discovery.



In 1962, **Cesar Chavez** and **Dolores Huerta** founded what would eventually become the United Farm Workers union. Using fasts, strikes and marches to call attention to substandard labor conditions among farm workers, Chavez and Huerta helped to organize agricultural workers into a powerful labor force.



Roberto Clemente was a four-time National League batting champ, an N.L. and World Series MVP, a lifetime .300 hitter and a member of baseball's 3,000-hit club who helped the Pittsburgh Pirates win World Series titles in 1960 and 1971. He died in a plane crash in 1972 while ferrying

emergency supplies to earthquake-ravaged Nicaragua. Nearly three months after his death, he was posthumously inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, the first Hispanic ballplayer to be so enshrined.



Known for her powerful voice, her flashy persona on stage and her trademark shout of "¡Azúcar!" Grammy winner **Celia Cruz** was widely recognized as the Queen of Salsa, earning international acclaim through her recordings and her collaborations with **Tito Puente**.

AMERICANS

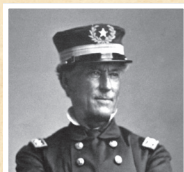
Oscar de la Renta's fashion designs have graced the runways of Paris and New York—as well as the Boy Scouts, for whom he designed new uniforms in 1980.



With his special election victory in March 2010, **Jose Peralta** became the first Dominican-American ever elected to the New York State Senate. He was later re-elected with more than 82 percent of the vote in the general election.



Adriano Espaillat made American history in 1996 when he won election to the New York State Assembly, making him the first Dominican-American anywhere to be elected to a state legislature.



The son of a Spanish merchant captain, Civil War hero **David G. Farragut** was the Navy's first rear admiral, vice admiral and admiral. He is best known, however, for his famous order: "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!"

In 1960, **Tom Flores** became pro football's first Hispanic starting quarterback when he played under center for the Oakland Raiders of the new American Football League. Two decades later, he made more history as a head coach, leading the Raiders to two Super Bowl titles with another Hispanic signal-caller—**Jim Plunkett**— as QB.



Scott Gomez, the Alaska-born son of a Mexican-American father and a Colombian-American mother, was the first Hispanic player to be drafted by—and to play in—the National Hockey League. In his rookie season (1999-2000) Gomez helped the New Jersey Devils win the Stanley Cup.



Jennifer Lopez first caught the public's eye as a dancer on TV's *In Living Color* and has not left the spotlight since, earning a 1997 Golden Globe nomination for her performance as the late Tejano singer Selena, scoring a string of Top-40 hits and launching her own fashion line.



Few in the entertainment industry can lay claim to winning all four of its major awards: Emmy (television), Grammy (music), Tony (stage) and Oscar (film). **Rita Moreno** is one of those few, winning the first of her trophies in 1961, when she was named an Academy Award honoree for Best Supporting Actress in *West Side Story*.



The first Hispanic to be elected to Congress was **Romualdo Pacheco** of California in 1876, winning by a one-vote margin. He served only four months in the House of Representatives before his opponent successfully contested the results. In 1878, he was again elected to his old seat and served two terms.

The first Hispanic-American to be elected to serve a full term in the Senate was **Dennis Chávez** of New Mexico (1935-62).

New York City-born, Juilliard-educated **Tito Puente** was recognized as an influential bandleader and composer of Latin jazz and salsa, recording more than 100 albums and winning five Grammys for his work.



Bill Richardson has served his country as a seven-term congressman, ambassador to the United Nations, Secretary of Energy in the Clinton Administration and an experienced diplomat who has traveled to the world's hot spots, including North Korea, Cuba, Iraq and Sudan. Currently the governor of New Mexico, Richardson is the only Hispanic governor in all of the 50 states.



Alex Rodriguez, made history in 2007 when he became the youngest player ever to hit 500 career home runs (at 32 years, 8 days old). As a free agent in 2000, "A-Rod" signed a 10-year, \$250 million contract with the Texas Rangers—the richest contract in U.S. sports history.



Born in Arizona of Mexican-American, German and Dutch heritage, **Linda Ronstadt** is considered one of the most versatile performers in music, scoring a string of hit albums and songs in a variety of genres, including country, rock and roll and pop. In 1987, she released *Canciones de mi Padre*, a collection of traditional Mexican songs. It went double-platinum and earned her a Grammy for Best Mexican-American Performance.



The first English-language novel written by a Hispanic author to be published was 1872's *Who Would Have Thought It?* by **María Amparo Ruiz de Burton**.

Cristina Saralegui's Spanish-language talk show on Univision reaches more than 100 million in the U.S., Latin America and Europe, making her one of America's most influential TV personalities.



Actor **Martin Sheen** has starred in critically-acclaimed movies such as *Apocalypse Now*, *Bobby* and *The Departed* and has been recognized for his outspoken advocacy for social justice. But Sheen—born Ramon Estevez—is best known for his portrayal of President Josiah "Jed" Bartlet for seven seasons on the Emmy-winning drama *The West Wing*.



In 1992, **Nydia Velazquez** was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, representing New York's 12th District and became the first female Puerto Rican member of Congress.

The oldest Spanish-language newspaper in the U.S. was founded by **Rafael Vierra** in 1913. *La Prensa* (now *La Prensa-El Diario*) started out as a weekly newspaper before becoming a daily in 1918.



Each year, from September 15 to October 15, our nation recognizes Hispanic Heritage Month to celebrate the contributions of Hispanic Americans in the United States. Like many immigrants and native-born citizens, Hispanics have added a unique flavor to our melting pot and have greatly influenced our society in a number of fields including science, entertainment, business, sports and politics.

As part of this celebration, I am presenting this informational brochure about notable Hispanics who have, and continue to blaze trails for others to follow, as well as interesting statistics that point out just how influential and powerful this segment of the American population has become.

I hope you this brief report will spark your curiosity and encourage you to learn more about the myriad contributions of Hispanic Americans to our state and our nation.

Sincerely,

*Senator Jose Peralta
13th Senate District*

HISPANIC-AMERICANS BY THE NUMBERS

3.2% Percentage increase in the Hispanic population between 2007 and 2008, making them the fastest-growing minority group.

2nd Ranking of the size of the U.S. Hispanic population worldwide, as of 2008. Only Mexico (110 million) had larger Hispanic populations than did the United States (46.9 million).

132.8 MILLION The projected Hispanic population of the United States on July 1, 2050. According to this projection, Hispanics would make up 30% of the nation's population by that date.

16 The number of states with at least a half million Hispanic residents, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and Washington.

64 PERCENT The percentage of Hispanic-origin people in households who were of Mexican background in 2007. Another 9% were of Puerto Rican background, with 3.5% Cuban, 3.1% Salvadoran, and 2.7% Dominican. The remainder are of some other Central American, South American, or other Hispanic or Latino origin.

1.6 Million The number of Hispanic-owned U.S. businesses in 2002.

\$222 BILLION Revenue generated by Hispanic-owned U.S. businesses in 2002, up 19% from 1997.

10 PERCENT Percentage of businesses owned by Hispanics in New York State.

57% The rate of growth for Hispanic-owned businesses in New York between 1997 and 2002, highest among all states during that time.

TRIPLE The rate of growth of Hispanic-owned businesses between 1997 and 2002 (31%) compared with the national average (10%) for all businesses.

10.4 MILLION The number of Hispanic family households in the United States in 2008. Of these households, 62% included children younger than 18.

\$37,913 The median income of Hispanic households in 2008.

3.6 MILLION The number of Hispanics 18 and older who had at least a bachelor's degree in 2008.

1 MILLION Number of Hispanics age 25 and older with advanced degrees in 2008 (e.g., master's, professional, doctorate).

79,400 Number of Hispanic chief executives. In addition, 450,866 physicians and surgeons; 48,720 post-secondary teachers; 38,532 lawyers; and 2,726 news analysts, reporters and correspondents are Hispanic.

1.1 MILLION The number of Hispanic veterans of the U.S. armed forces.